

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**Claims 1 to 5** (previously cancelled)

**Claim 6** (currently amended)

An agent comprising the protein of claim 14 containing an effective amount of the protein for ~~preventing and treating~~ a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage.

**Claim 7** (previously amended)

The agent for treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is osteoporosis.

**Claim 8** (previously amended)

The agent for treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is osteoarthritis or arthroseitis.

**Claim 9** (previously amended)

The agent for treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is bone fracture.

**Claim 10** (previously amended)

The agent for treating a disease affecting bone and/or cartilage according to claim 6, wherein the disease is a lack of root of teeth and a tooth socket.

**Claims 11 to 13** (previously cancelled).

**Claim 14** (currently amended)

The A MP52 protein according to claim 13, comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID No: 2 of the sequence listing.